

A monthly newsletter for the citizens of the City of Rockville

New Town Center Design: Feb. 19

Public Invited to Fitzgerald Theatre For Look at Future Downtown

Rockville will unveil the draft design guidelines that will provide a detailed look at the City’s future Town Center, and the new Rockville Regional Library that will be the downtown focal point, at a public meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville Civic Center Park.

The meeting will be taped and broadcast at various times on The Rockville Channel. [See Page 4 for broadcast schedule.]

The draft design guidelines to be presented will include sketches, architectural concepts and street and sidewalk plans, building upon the design guidelines that are part of the Town Center Master Plan. The draft design guidelines are an integral part of the project because once the final guidelines are approved, private developers will be required to build their various projects according to the guidelines.

“This is an important step for this City,” said Mayor Larry Giammo. “There have been many people asking questions and wondering what the new Town Center will include and how it will look. This presentation paints a much clearer picture of what we foresee as the future of Rockville. We want the input of our residents in building Town Center and this gives people a chance to comment on tangible designs.”

The draft design guidelines will include schematics of building and street plans for the area to be developed that is bordered by Beall Avenue on the north; Middle Lane on the

south; North Washington Street on the west and Maryland Route 355 on the east.

It is intended that construction on the library and the first parking garage will begin in late 2003 and those structures will be completed by late 2005.

The new Town Center will include a mix of retail, restaurant, entertainment, residential and office uses. A town square will be included in the design, along with wide sidewalks that will encourage a pedestrian environment and outdoor cafés.

The draft guidelines were prepared by representatives of the City, Montgomery County, Street-Works and Federal Realty Investment Trust. In addition to building appearances, the guidelines address how the town square will be used for special events such as the Memorial Day Hometown Holidays celebration and as host of the summer Farmers’ Market.

The planned residential projects will include more than 480 apartments and more than 170 condominiums. Three public parking garages and one private garage, along with on-street spaces, will create extensive parking to support the project.

Further information on the draft design guidelines will be available at the presentation and from Rockville’s Department of Community Planning and Development Services at City Hall. Visit www.ci.rockville.md.us for the latest information on Town Center. [RR](#)

“This presentation paints a much clearer picture of what we foresee as the future of Rockville.”

— Mayor Larry Giammo



The King Farm “Milk for Thompson’s Dairy” barn is a popular sight from Route 355 in Rockville. The King Farm Farmstead Task Force recently recommended future uses for the site.

King Farm: From Dairy Cows To Cultural Arts Mecca?

When plans to develop King Farm were underway in the 1990s, many Rockville residents advocated retaining a portion of the property to preserve the City’s legacy as a farm community.

Now the City, with input from a citizen task force, is working toward a future plan for the 5-acre King Farm Farmstead site.

In 1998, the City obtained the complex of main buildings that defined the farm from the King family, nationally known dairy farmers.

The most familiar buildings are the farm house and the Wisconsin-style dairy barn with its “Milk for Thompson’s Dairy” sign visible from Route 355.

The farm was the subject of a Jan. 25 worksession of the Mayor and Council, which included a tour of the main farmhouse, barns, sheds and other buildings. The King Farm Farmstead Task Force presented recommendations for the property.

The Task Force, co-chaired by

John Moser and Andy Kapust, consisted of two members of the Cultural Arts Commission, Historic District Commission, Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, King Farm residents and one from Peerless Rockville. The group’s report to the Mayor and Council envisioned an overall “utilitarian historical arts and recreation center on par with historic (and cultural) facilities such as Wolf Trap and the Olney Theatre Center.”

Of the nine buildings at the King Farm site, the Task Force recommended keeping five for adaptive reuse.

Recommendations for the five buildings, which would make up the main site of the “Farmstead Arts and Recreation Center,” included a covered picnic area; a 300-seat theatre; and a City Police substation. The report also recommends using the 20,000 square feet of barn space for multiple purposes including an art gallery, studio, museum and offices. A

café and concession area were part of the proposals, which also suggest converting the garage to a museum and preservation site that could have use for short-term rental to community-oriented organizations.

“The site has outstanding potential, not just for King Farm residents, but for the entire City,” said Burt Hall, Director of Recreation and Parks.

One area recommended to stay relatively untouched is the farm house, which currently is a residential facility that is in “extraordinary condition,” according to the Task Force.

The Mayor and Council will consider the proposal for long-term implementation, although more immediate safety concerns of the other four buildings may be addressed sooner. The City will seek input from the neighborhood before presenting further recommendations to the Mayor and Council. [RR](#)

March’s Best of Rockville

March 2-25
Rockville Student Art Show.
Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. Work by Rockville students grades K-12. Opening reception March 2, from 1-4 p.m. Free. 240-314-8682.

March 7
Sister City Wine Tasting.
Sample white wines from North and South America at Glenview Mansion. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for the public, and \$15 for RSCC members. 240-314-5029

March 9
Rockville Arts Sampler.
Vignettes from a variety of cultural arts groups. 3 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at Rockville Civic Center Park. Free, but tickets required. 240-314-8690.

March 25
A History Lesson – Women’s History Month.
Rockville Senior Center. 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Register by March 17. 240-314-8800.

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Members of the Crutchfield family, representing three generations, in front of 22 Martins Lane: (left to right, back row): Warren, Wellington Jr., Joanne, Dominique. (left to right, middle): Elaine, Adrienne, LaShane, Nicole, Brenda. (front): Eli.

The Crutchfield Family History Is Preserved at 22 Martins Lane

Family Home, Carver School Are The Latest to Earn Historic Designations from Rockville’s Mayor and Council

An old top hat. Antique dishes. Lanterns. Pictures.

Historic designation in the City of Rockville is much more than a legal classification. Just ask Warren Crutchfield and his family.

He found that top hat and other relics in the attic of his family’s home at 22 Martins Lane – one of the latest properties to be designated historic by the Mayor and Council.

The home is the central point of seven houses on the Crutchfield land near Town Center, which has been documented as being in the family since the mid-1800s (but possibly much earlier) and has represented the Crutchfield legacy for as long as anyone can remember.

The larger Crutchfield property also includes Haiti Cemetery, the earliest burial ground for African-American Rockville residents, where many Crutchfield family ancestors were laid to rest.

“It wasn’t until I got older that it hit me, ‘Wow, my great-great grandmother walked on this land,’” said Warren, a retired Montgomery County teacher, who also was the first African-American coach of a varsity sport

in Montgomery County. “This home has so much significance for this generation. This is where our family started. When I was growing up, I never thought of it – the significance of the land and how my family members were slaves.”

The sentiment especially hit Warren when he began renovating 22 Martins Lane and discovered that the original home was a log cabin, and that the original pine floors were still intact. He also found a coal shovel that he used to move ashes for his grandmother, Gertrude Prather, wife of George, when he was young. The top hat that Warren discovered had the initials “GP” inside – it was his grandfather George’s hat.

Another item that Warren found in the attic was a sign that read “Ross Estate,” which dates back to the 19th century.

Jane Carroll and Alfred Ross were the first official black owners of 22 Martins Lane. Historic records reveal that Alfred was a slave of the Beall family. In the 1920s, ownership of 22 Martins Lane went to Flora Ross Powell, daughter of Jane and Alfred. After several more years of close-knit family ownership, the house was

purchased by Warren and wife, Brenda, in 1981 to preserve the family’s history.

“When you look around the City, there are not many places where the same family still lives after this many years,” Warren said. “It’s just so important that we preserve the history of this land. I’ve taught the kids how important it is to keep the history alive, so it’s never forgotten.”

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The George Washington Carver High School and Junior College also gained historic designation from the Mayor and Council. Similar to 22 Martins Lane, this property contains a rich historical significance for African-Americans in Rockville and Montgomery County.

Carver was the only high school for African-American students in Montgomery County. The college was the first, last and only post-secondary institution for black students during a time of racial segregation in America.

The facility is in good physical condition, and is part of the complex that serves as the headquarters of Montgomery Public Schools. [RR](#)

Longer Terms On November Ballot

Referendum Asks Residents If They Prefer Two Years or Four Years

The voters of Rockville will offer their opinion on whether the terms of office for the City’s Mayor and Council should be lengthened from two to four years in a nonbinding referendum that will be part of this November’s election ballot.

The Mayor and Council decided at a Jan. 27 worksession to ask voters how they felt about extending terms, as was recommended by the 12-member Charter Review Commission. The commission of diverse community representatives was appointed in the summer of 2002 to study various aspects of the City Charter that affect election procedures and elected officials.

David Cahoon, who co-chaired the commission along with David Hill, said he backed longer terms to help the Mayor and Council get more accomplished.

“I thought what should be undertaken to get the Mayor and Council in gear to implement their strategic plan and their master plan was to have four-year terms to be able to carry out what takes four years to create,” said Cahoon.

In a report delivered to the Mayor and Council on Dec. 31, the commission basically declared most aspects of the Rockville election process to be in good shape and recommended they should remain unchanged.

Among the issues the commission studied but recommended against changing were a possible expansion of the Council by two members and having Councilmembers elected by geographic districts (all Councilmembers are now elected at-large).

The commission presented its report at a Jan. 14 worksession. A public hearing was held on Jan. 21 on the report.

Other recommendations made by the commission and endorsed by the Mayor and Council involve changes related to how vacancies on the Mayor and Council are filled; the number of signatures required for recall petitions; and changes related to the number of signatures needed to put an advisory referendum on the ballot.

Historically, the City has used a percentage of registered voters as the requirement for the number of signatures needed for a recall petition or advisory referendum. In the 1980s, when the City began using the Montgomery County registered voter database rather than requiring separate registration, the number of Rockville registered voters increased dramatically, resulting in an increase in the number of signatures required for a recall petition or advisory referendum. The Commission recommended the use of a percentage of those who have actually voted in City elections as the basis for the number of signatures required for a recall petition or advisory referendum. This would reduce the number of signatures required in both instances. If the recommended adjustments are made, the Commission feels that the signature requirements would be consistent with the law, as it existed prior to the changes made in the 1980s regarding voter registration.

The changes are expected to be made by the Mayor and Council this spring. A Public Hearing regarding how vacancies are filled on the Mayor and Council and the number of signatures needed to initiate a recall election will be held on March 17.

For more information or to sign up to speak at the public hearing, call the City Clerk’s office at 240-314-8280. [RR](#)



Focus on NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT

Rockville has many programs that affect the lives of residents. On a regular basis, “Focus On” will take an introspective look at these programs and detail the impact they have for City residents.

There have been many opportunities to shovel snow this winter, but do you know someone who has tackled more than his or her own sidewalk – out of simple kindness? Or how about picking up groceries for a friend in need? Removing trash from sidewalks or parks?

Simple favors and good deeds are examples of what can earn Rockville residents a nomination for the new

“Mayor and Council Good Neighbor Awards Program.”

The awards, developed by Rockville’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, are the City’s way of thanking residents who are committed to preserving, maintaining and improving the quality of life in the City.

“There are so many good people with huge hearts in this City, and we just wanted to find a way to recognize their actions that might otherwise go unnoticed,” said Dwayne Jenkins, one of the City’s Neighborhood Resources Coordinators who acts as a liaison between the City government and more than 50 Rockville neighborhoods.

Nominations are being accepted for the 2003 awards, which will be presented at a special ceremony this year. There are two award categories – adult and youth. Nominees must be City residents who, without repayment:

- Have made significant contributions to their neighborhood or the City during the 2002-2003 calendar year
- Have demonstrated efforts beyond the scope of civic responsibilities
- Have demonstrated concern for their neighborhood’s well-being or overall quality of life for Rockville.

Nominations must be submitted by the first week of May



Good deeds — like shoveling a neighbor’s sidewalk — can earn a nomination for the “Good Neighbors Program.”

to Jenkins at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850. Include the nominee’s and nominator’s name, address, phone number and e-mail address.

Nominations should include a description (300 words or less) of why the nominee deserves a “Good Neighbor Award.” For more information, call 240-314-8343. [RR](#)

In Brief

Tax Return Help

The City’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services is offering free tax preparation assistance to low-income residents and senior citizens every Tuesday through tax day, April 15.

In cooperation with the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, volunteer tax advisors will be available to citizens who make appointments in advance by calling 240-314-8310. Tax preparation will be provided from 7:30-9 p.m. at 32 Courthouse Sq.

Seniors and homebound residents eligible to receive this service may call 301-468-4179 for additional assistance.

CALL 240-314-8310 FOR INFO

Summer in the City

The City’s Summer Camp Guide is now available online at www.ci.rockville.md.us. This year’s camps are better than ever, with three new additions: “Big Train Baseball” camp, Kaleidoscope-Theme-Based camp and Kamparama-Theme-Based camp.

Camp guides also are available at City Hall or the Montgomery County Library. Those who register online through Rock Enroll are eligible to win a free session.

CALL 240-314-8620 FOR INFO

Neighborhood Plans

The Neighborhood Plan Advisory Groups for both the East Rockville and Lincoln Park neighborhoods have been putting together plans for their neighborhoods over the past several months. Beginning in March, there will be Community Meetings to present the plans to the respective neighborhood residents.

CALL 240-314-8211 FOR INFO

Grants for the Home

Low- and moderate-income Rockville homeowners can apply for grants and loans to make necessary upgrades to their homes through the City’s Home Improvement Program.

This includes upgrades to electrical, plumbing and home heating systems. Funds for the program are provided by Housing and Urban Development through the U.S. Community Development Block Grant Program and are administered by the City’s Department of Community Planning and Development Services.

CALL 240-314-8208 FOR INFO

Historic Surveys

The City’s Historic Preservation Office will begin surveying the Lincoln Park and East Rockville neighborhoods this month.

The survey involves creating an inventory of existing structures and streetscapes.

Rockville Spring Cleaning

Not sure what to do with that gallon of used motor oil? What about those rotting 2x4s in the backyard?

In April, the City of Rockville’s Code Enforcement Department will give residents (non-commercial) a chance to part with such unwanted items. The City will provide a designated drop-off spot for any item up to about 50 pounds. Several City garbage trucks will be available, as well as a hazardous materials deposit.

This service is in addition to the regular trash pickups each week. Specific information regarding dates, times and locations will follow in the April edition of *Rockville Reports*, but for now, start thinking about what items need to go.

CALL 240-314-8335 FOR INFO



Sister City’s Wines

The Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC) will host its 11th Annual Wine Tasting Social on Friday, March 7, at 8 p.m., at Glenview Mansion. White wines of the Americas will be served.

Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Tickets are \$25 for the public, and \$15 for RSCC members.

CALL 240-314-5029 FOR INFO

Spring Rec Programs

The City’s Spring Recreation programs begin the second week of April and include many new classes: Conversational Spanish, Tumbling and Trampoline, Global Dance and more. For information check www.ci.rockville.md.us.

CALL 240-314-8620 FOR INFO

Para Ud.

Aumentan las multas de estacionamiento en Rockville

Los conductores que no respetaron las reglas de estacionamiento de la Ciudad de Rockville empezaron a pagar un precio más alto por sus violaciones desde el 28 de enero.

En su sesión general del lunes 27 de enero, el Alcalde y el Concejo votaron por unanimidad aumentar las multas por las violaciones de estacionamiento para ponerlas más de acuerdo con las multas cargadas por las jurisdicciones vecinas.

Las multas de estacionamiento de Rockville habían quedado muy por debajo de otras jurisdicciones porque la Ciudad no las había aumentado en más de 20 años. Las nuevas multas por ocupar los espacios de los discapacitados o los carriles de incendio subieron de \$50 a \$100 (en comparación, Montgomery County cobra \$250 para multar las mismas violaciones). Las violaciones básicas y las de parquímetros aumentaron de \$25 a \$40 (en comparación, Montgomery County cobra entre \$40 y \$45 para multar las mismas violaciones).

-Translated by Victoria Imas-Duchovny

CITY
22 **Off-Leash Dog Testing.** 10 a.m. Middle Lane parking lot. Tests if dogs can be walked without a leash. Call 240-314-8930 to register in advance.

ARTS
Feb. 24-Mar. 29
NEW with Sam Gilliam. Rockville Arts Place. The curator has nine artists for an innovative sculpture exhibition. Opening reception Feb. 27, 6-8 p.m. Music by Don Lerman. Call 301-309-6900.

1 **Victorian Lyric Opera Company,** “The Pirates of Penzance.” 8 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets \$15 general admission, \$12 students. Box office: 240-314-8690.

2-25 **Rockville Student Art Show.** Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. Work by Rockville students grades K-12. Opening reception March 2, from 1-4 p.m. FREE. 240-314-8682.

2 **Glenview Mansion Concert Series** presents two performances by The Musical Theater Center, from 1:30-2 p.m., and 2:30-3 p.m. FREE. Call 240-314-8682.

8 **National Chamber Orchestra Piano Recital** by Yuliya Gorenman. 8 p.m. Tickets \$22, \$17, \$11. Call 240-314-8690.

9 **Rockville Arts Sampler.** 3 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at Rockville Civic Center Park. FREE. Tickets required: 240-314-8690.

14,15,16,21,22 **The Musical Theatre Center** at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Call 240-314-8690 for tickets.

march calendar of events

RES. = Residents • NR. = Non Residents • MEM. = Member • NM. = Non Member

23 **Rockville Concert Band.** “Children’s Concert.” 3 p.m. FREE. Call 240-314-8681.

30-April 29 **Glenview Mansion Art Gallery** presents Susanne McDougall Carmack, “Claiming Space,” mixed media paintings; and Michelle Rogers, “The Past Recaptured/Le Temps Retrouve,” photography. Opening reception March 30, from 1-4 p.m. FREE.

30 **Glenview Mansion Concert Series:** Celtic Trio (Maggie Sansone, Laura Byrne and Bridget Hight). FREE. Call 240-314-8682.

NATURE CENTER
All programs at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, Rockville Civic Center Park, unless noted. Registration is required. Phone: 240-314-8770.

1 **Flight of the Swan.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Ages 16 and over. \$20 RES./\$24 NR.

4 **Just Ducky!** 10-11 a.m. Ages 3-6. \$3 RES./\$4 NR.

6 **Making Tracks.** 4-5 p.m. Ages 8-14. \$4 RES./\$5 NR.

12 **My Spring Robin.** 9:30-10:30 a.m. Ages 3-6. \$3 RES./\$4 NR.

19 **That’s Gross!** 1-2 p.m. Ages 6-12. \$4 RES./\$5 NR.

21 **Endangered Species Highlight: The Delmarva Fox Squirrel.** 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Ages 16 and over. \$20 RES./\$24 NR.

26 **Tiny Tot Walk: The Caterpillar and the Polliwog.** 10:30-11:15 a.m. Ages 1½ -2. \$2 RES./\$3 NR.

26 **Tyke Hike: The Caterpillar and the Polliwog.** 1-2 p.m. Ages 3-5. \$2 RES./\$3 NR.

28 **Jeeppers, Can You Hear Those Peepers?** 7-8 p.m. All Ages. \$2 RES./\$3 NR.

SENIORS
All programs at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., unless noted. Phone: 240-314-8800.

3,10,17,24,31 **FREE Income Tax Assistance.** Call 301-468-4179 for an appointment.

5 **March Birthday Party.** 1:30-3 p.m. FREE. Register one week before party.

5 **Blood Pressure Screening.** 10 a.m.-12 noon.

6 **Veterans’ Group Meeting: Women in the Military.** 10 a.m.-12 noon. FREE. Register by Feb. 27.

12 **Brown Bag Irish Concert.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$6 MEM./\$8 NM. Register by March 3.

14 **Shady Lady – Perennials.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Register by March 6.

17,18 **Woodworking – An Introduction.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$30 MEM./\$38 NM. Register by March 11.

18 **Spring Trip Registration In-Person Lottery,** 1 p.m.

19 **Classical Music with Murray.** 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Register by March 13.

19 **Blood Pressure Screening.** 10 a.m.-12 noon.

20 **An Evening with High Spirits.** 7-8:30 p.m. \$8 MEM./\$10 NM. Registration required.

24-26 **Buying on e-Bay.** 10 a.m.-12 noon. \$5. Registration required.

25 **Woodworking – Beginners** (Tues. & Thurs.). 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$75 MEM./\$94 NM. Register by March 14.

25 **A History Lesson – Women’s History Month.** 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Register by March 17.

25-28 **Chesapeake Bay Fitness Adventure.** Three-night get-away. \$336 MEM./\$420 NM. Registration required.

27 **Be Healthy the Natural Way.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Register by March 19.

TEENS
For more information, call 240-314-8634.

4,11,18,25 **Teen Lounge.** Lincoln Park Community Center for students in grades 6-12 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

5,12,19,26 **Teen Activity Center.** Montrose Community Center for students in grades 6-12 from 6-9 p.m.

19 **Paintball.** 12-6 p.m. \$25 MEM./\$30 NM.

21 **Teen Club Dance.** Lincoln Park Community Center. 8-11 p.m. for grades 6-12. \$2 for Teen Club and Community Center MEM./\$5 NM.

28 **Teen Club Dance.** Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. 7:30-10 p.m. for grades 6-8. \$2 for Teen Club and Community Center MEM./\$5 NM.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
All meetings at City Hall unless noted otherwise.

1 **Board of Appeals.** 9:30 a.m.

10 **Sign Review Board.** 4 p.m.

11 **Human Services Advisory Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Lincoln Park Community Center.

11 **Rockville Seniors Inc.** 1 p.m. Senior Center Board Room

12 **Planning Comm.** 7 p.m.

12 **Cultural Arts Comm.** 7:30 p.m.

19 **Rockville Housing Enterprises** (Housing Authority). 6:30 p.m. Commissioners Board Room, 14 Moore Dr.

20 **Rockville Sister City Corporation.** 7:30 p.m.

20 **Historic District Comm.** 7 p.m.

26 **Planning Comm.** 7 p.m.

26 **Human Rights Comm.** 7:30 p.m.

27 **Senior Citizens Comm.** 10 a.m. Senior Center.

27 **Recreation and Park Advisory Board.** 7 p.m. Montrose.

Rockville Up Close: Driving the Policies for City Streets

Residents help shape Rockville through involvement with neighborhood and civic associations and participation on Mayor and Council-appointed Boards and Commissions. On a regular basis, Rockville Up Close will take an in-depth look at these organizations.

A sidewalk is installed. A new speed hump appears. Residents see these improvements happen all the time, but do they really know how they came about? The Traffic and Transportation Commission quite possibly had a hand in it. The commission is comprised of nine Rockville residents who meet monthly to discuss any and all issues about the improvement of the City's mobility. "We serve as advisors on traffic and transportation issues, and tend to focus on areas of policies," said



Stan Klein, Traffic and Transportation Commission Chairman (left), and Larry Marcus, Rockville's Chief of Traffic and Transportation, work to improve the City's mobility. Pedestrian safety is just one priority of the commission.

Chairman Stan Klein, who has been on the commission since 1991. And the City's Traffic and Transportation officials take their input seriously. Topics such as street lighting, traffic calming studies, budget suggestions, engineering studies, new technology, bicycle paths and parking are among the group's area of focus. Currently, the commission is reviewing the City's Pedestrian Policy, which was last published in November of 1994. Although the basic policies remain consistent, there have been major changes in the City, such as the addition of King Farm and Falls Grove, which needed to be addressed. So far, the review

process has taken approximately three months, and the report is near completion. "In some ways we are a watchdog organization," said six-year commission member Alice Bell. "We try to keep a handle on all traffic and parking issues in the City." The commission has a core of seasoned veterans. In addition to Klein and Bell's combined 18 years of experience, Alan Levine and Richard Resnick have each served on the commission since 1991. Add the five new appointees (since November) — Ephrem Asebe, Elizabeth Crane, Jean Gonnella, John O'Brien and Jon Oberg — and the City has the best of both worlds: experience combined with a fresh perspective. "They are all diving right in and contributing already," said Klein. "The new members bring a wide range of expertise." RR

Higher City Parking Fines Now In Effect

Drivers who failed to adhere to City of Rockville parking regulations began paying a higher price for their violations starting Jan. 28. At their General Session of Monday, Jan. 27, the Mayor and Council unanimously voted to increase fines for parking violations to put City fees more in line with the fines charged by nearby jurisdictions. Rockville parking fines had fallen far behind other jurisdictions because the City has not increased fines in more than 20 years. The Mayor and Council felt that the existing fine structure was not enough of a deterrent to keep drivers from parking illegally. The

Mayor and Council declared they were particularly concerned about the number of drivers willing to accept fines for parking in handicapped spots and in fire lanes. The new fine structure increases violations for parking in handicapped spaces or fire lanes to \$100, up from \$50. (By comparison, Montgomery County charges \$250 for these violations and Gaithersburg charges \$250 for handicapped violations, \$100 for fire lane violations.) Basic violations and meter violations increased to \$40 in Rockville, up from \$25. (Montgomery County charges \$40-45 for these violations; Gaithersburg charges \$40 for each). RR



Parking Enforcement Officer Patrick Freeman writes parking tickets for violators in Rockville.

Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-7 p.m. on Mondays (unless otherwise noted) when there is a General Session or Public Hearing. Call the City Clerk's Office (240-314-8280) as drop-in times are subject to change. In addition to Mayor Larry Giammo, Councilmembers scheduled for March are: March 10 Susan Hoffmann March 17 Anne Robbins March 24 Bob Dorsey



Councilmember Anne Robbins

Mayor & Council Meetings

All General and Work Sessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel, and are now available on streaming video: www.ci.rockville.md.us. March 10 (Mon.) General Session, 7:30 p.m. March 17 (Mon.) Public Hearing (Warehouse Storage I-1 Zone; Changes to City Charter related to elections), 7:30 p.m. March 24 (Mon.) General Session, 7:30 p.m. March 31 (Mon.) Worksession (if needed), 7:30 p.m.

Boards & Commissions Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for appointment to the following: Animal Matters Board Commission on Environment (new) Human Rights Commission (one) Landlord/Tenant (one for tenant) Retirement Board (one) For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280.

Rockville's FY04 Budget Schedule

- April 14 - Presentation to the Mayor and Council and introduction of the budget and utility rates.
- April 28 - Budget public hearing #1.
- May 5 - Budget public hearing #2.
- May 13 - Budget worksession #1.
- May 20 - Budget worksession #2.
- May 28 - Budget worksession #3.
- June 9 - Budget and utility rates adoptions by the Mayor and Council.

TRC 11	THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL MARCH PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE						
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 midnight until meeting ends	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼
6 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 am	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
7 am	Nature Center	Annual Report	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	Annual Report	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	Annual Report	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)
7:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
8 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
8:30 am	Mayor & Council ▼	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Mayor & Council ▼
9 am	▼	Town Center Development Guidelines ▼	Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration ▼	African American Heritage	Town Center Development Guidelines ▼	Town Center Development Guidelines	▼
10:30 am	▼	▼	▼	Responsive & Responsible: Rockville City Government	▼	▼	▼
11 am	Cityline	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	Annual Report	Smooth Beginnings	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	Cityline
11:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
12 noon	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
12:30 pm	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
1 pm	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼
4 pm	Town Center Development Guidelines ▼	▼	Town Center Development Guidelines ▼	Town Center Development Guidelines ▼	▼	Annual Report	▼
4:30 pm	▼	Preserving the Past	▼	▼	Preserving the Past	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	African American Heritage ▼
5 pm	▼	Annual Report	▼	▼	Annual Report	Responsive & Responsible: Rockville City Government	▼
5:30 pm		Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	▼	▼	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	Smooth Beginnings	▼
6 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
7 pm	Planning Commission ▼	Annual Report	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	Planning Commission ▼	Smooth Beginnings	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
7:30 pm	▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Town Center Development Guidelines ▼	▼	Town Center Development Guidelines ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	▼
9 pm	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	Preserving the Past
9:30 pm	▼	▼	Cityline	▼	Cityline	▼	Cityline
10 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
10:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
11 pm	Annual Report	Smooth Beginnings	Annual Report	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	Smooth Beginnings	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	Responsive & Responsible: Rockville City Government
11:30 pm	Nature Center	Preserving the Past	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	Preserving the Past	Nature Center	Annual Report	Annual Report